personnel. 379 of these KVKs are under Agriculture Universities. The entire cost of these KVKs is met by the Central Government through the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

Alcohol Control Policy

2083.PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to launch a national policy for alcohol control;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the suggestions from experts and scientists have been invited for the proper formation of the alcohol control policy;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of the other steps Government propose to take to ensure that policy on alcohol control is implemented and the youths who are addict to it can be saved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The policy with regard to sale and distribution of alcohol is within the purview of the State Governments. Therefore, the efforts made to contain the damage done by alcoholism vary from State to State. Apart from this, clinical care, building awareness, counseling and rehabilitation is made available through de-addiction centres and counseling centres run/funded by the Government.

(c) to (e) The need to frame a policy on alcohol control has been discussed with the experts and scientists. To make an effective national policy there is need to introduce legislative changes, identify national structures responsible, develop quality data system, to have Central Law on alcohol instead of State specific laws, uniform policy and taxation in all States and UT, increase minimum legal drinking from 18-21. Views of the State Governments and UTs are to be obtained in this regard.

Closure of vaccine manufacturing PSUs

2084.SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to stop vaccine production by three central PSUs as they did not meet the standard set by the World Health Organisation;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry ignored the norms in putting men at helm in PSUs;

(c) if so, what action has been taken against those held responsible; and

(d) what are the steps being taken to prevent such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, the three Central Public Sector Units were found not to be complying to the Schedule M requirements of the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules on inspection and their licenses were suspended in January, 2008.